

children cannot guarantee that there will never be another tragedy like Santana and Columbine. As D'Alli says: "What sets these kids apart? Why are they murderers? We may not have the answer any time soon."

But detecting and treating mental illness in children is one way to reduce the risks of school violence. Researchers know that psychiatric disorders in children arise from a complex mix of factors—genetic vulnerability, social environment, history of traumatic experiences, level of psychological and cognitive strength. They also know that intervention as early as elementary school can protect at-risk children.

"These are troubled kids," continues D'Alli. "The whole concept is to treat [the problem] early. If you don't, you're not sure where it will lead." So why isn't there a louder outcry from parents and teachers for mental health services in schools? Part of the answer is money. Good mental health services are labor-intensive and costly. The other part is leadership.

President Bush was quick to express his sorrow. "When America teaches their children right from wrong . . . our country will be better off," he said. But this problem is not just a moral problem. It's a medical one. And he can do something about it.

ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST MISSING IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this fall, the Belarusian Government is planning to hold their second presidential elections since independence. Judging by the continuing actions of the repressive regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka, free, fair, and transparent elections—consistent with Belarus' freely undertaken OSCE commitments—will be very difficult to achieve. Democratic elections require an all-encompassing atmosphere of trust and a respect for basic human rights. Unfortunately, recent actions in Belarus do nothing to encourage such trust.

Most recently, on March 25, Belarusian authorities cracked down on participants of the Independence Day march, arresting and beating several protestors, subsequently fining and jailing some, including Belarusian Popular Front Chairman Vintsuk Vyachorka, who received a 15-day sentence on March 29, Ales Byaletsky, head of the human rights center "Viasna", who received a 10-day sentence, and Yuri Belenky, acting chairman of the Conservative Christian Party, who also received a 10-day sentence. Also detained and beaten was 17-year-old Dmitri Yegorov, a photo-journalist for a Grodno-based, non-state newspaper.

On the day of the march, Belarusian state television accused the opposition of "seeking to draw Belarus into some bloody turmoil", reflecting its increasingly shrill tone of late. Earlier this year, for instance, Belarusian television claimed the CIA was intensifying "subversive activity" as the presidential election draws nearer. On March 24, Belarus' KGB chief pledged on Belarusian television to intensify surveillance of foreigners in order to pre-

vent them from interfering in the country's domestic matters.

On March 12, Lukashenka signed Decree #8, which essentially imposes restrictions from abroad offered to NGOs for democracy building and human rights, including election monitoring. Moreover, the Belarusian Government has claimed that the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group's (AMG) domestic election observation project does not conform with the Belarusian Constitution and Electoral Code, although nowhere does the law address the conduct of election observation, and the government has resisted AMG efforts to convene a working group regarding the administrative dimension of the elections. Lukashenka himself has asserted that he would ban the training of election observers by non-Belarusian bodies, telling reporters: "There will be no guerrillas in Belarus." Earlier this year, Lukashenka also accused the AMG for "exceeding their mandate," saving the OSCE was planning to train some "14,000–18,000 fighters" under the guise of election observers.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned about recent assaults on religious communities. Last month, the Council of Ministers restricted visits by foreign clergy for "non-religious" purposes—including contact with religious and other organizations, participation in conferences and other events, or charitable activities. Government officials are also refusing to register some Reform Jewish communities because they do not have "legal" addresses. In February, state-controlled Belarusian television aired a documentary alleging Catholicism as a threat to the very existence of the Belarusian nation. And in January, leaders of Belarus' Protestant community alleged that state newspapers carried biased articles that present Pentecostals as "wild fanatics."

Religious freedom is not the only liberty in peril. Freedom of the press and of self expression are also in jeopardy.

Editors of a variety of newspapers are being fined on fictitious and trumped-up charges for violating the Law on Press and Other Mass Media. Various periodicals are being confiscated and destroyed, and distributors of independent newspapers have been arrested. Youth organizations have been accused of engaging in activities that weaken the Belarusian statehood and undermining socioeconomic stability. Teenagers have been arrested for picketing and protesting, and others have been detained for distributing newspapers or pasting stickers advocating reform and calling on the authorities to solve the cases of political disappearances. Belarusian Television and Radio (BTR) has also canceled scheduled addresses to be made by potential presidential candidates or opposition leaders. The Deputy Minister of Education has ordered heads of the educational community to ban seminars conducted by the People's University.

Lukashenka has also undertaken repressive acts against the potential presidential candidates and their families in an attempt to thwart their campaign progress.

Family members of former Prime Minister Mikhail Chigir have become the target of persecution. Chigir's wife has been accused of interfering with the work of the police, and his son, Alexander, has been charged with large scale larceny. Chigir is not the only potential

candidate whose actions have been thwarted by Lukashenka. Semyon Domash's meeting with potential voters at the Tourist Hotel was canceled on orders from the Mogilev authorities and a director of the clubhouse of the Brest Association of Hearing-Impaired People lost her job after hosting a February 3 voters' meeting with Domash. Vladimir Goncharik, a labor leader, has had to deal with newly state-created "unions" trying to muscle out unions supporting him. Two officials of a manufacturing plant were reprimanded by a Borisov city court for hosting a meeting between Chigir and employees at the plant.

When one looks at these and other recent actions of the Lukashenka regime, the inescapable conclusion is that the regime has created an unhealthy environment in advance of the elections. Mr. Speaker, the regime's behavior is obviously not conducive to the promotion of free and fair elections. A few weeks ago, President Lukashenka stressed the need to establish an atmosphere of trust in bilateral Belarusian-U.S. relations. I strongly encourage Mr. Lukashenka to translate his words into concrete deeds that will encourage this trust and lead to the emergence of Belarus from its self-imposed isolation from the Euro-Atlantic community of democracies.

FHA SHUTDOWN PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative FRANK, I will be introducing a bill I filed last Congress, the "FHA Shutdown Prevention Act."

This legislation provides standby budget authority for HUD to keep a number of FHA loan programs operating even when they run out of credit subsidy, by drawing on the profits from the other FHA specialty loan programs that make a profit for the taxpayer.

As Congress debates the issue of what we might do with the multi-billion dollar annual FHA surplus, I think most people would agree that the first thing we should not do is shut down important existing FHA loan programs merely because of budget technicalities and Congressional and Executive inaction. Yet, that is precisely what looms on the near horizon, for the second time in less than a year.

Last July, HUD was forced to suspend insurance for a number of multi-family and single family loans in the General Insurance/Special Risk Insurance (GI/SRI) Funds. These included a number of multi-family loan programs, the FHA reverse mortgage program, the 203(k) purchase-rehab program, and other important loan programs for low- and moderate-income families.

These programs were not suspended because FHA as a whole is unprofitable since all of the FHA loan programs combined make a net profit to the taxpayer of over \$2 billion a year, according to CBO and OMB. These programs were not even suspended because the GI/SRI Funds as a whole are unprofitable, because the profitable specialized FHA loan programs in the GI/SRI Funds make a profit sufficient to pay for the few specialized loan programs that run a small loss.